



## BOOT BUCKTHORN!! STOP THIS NOXIOUS WEED

BUCKTHORN GROWS QUICKLY, CHOKING beneficial native trees, shrubs and wildflowers. Infested areas develop soil erosion and water quality problems. Help stop buckthorn's spread by removing it from your property or volunteering to remove it in parks through the City's Adopt-a-Park program. Free tool kits with a weed wrench and loppers are available for removing plants up to two-and-a-half inches in diameter. For more information, visit the City's Web site at [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), keyword: Buckthorn, or call 952-563-8751.



Identifying Buckthorn: Between the buds, look for a thorn that resembles the hoofprint of a buck.

## PROTECTING OUR FOREST TREE DISEASE MONITORING



EMERALD ASH BORER, A DEVASTATING tree disease found in Illinois, is moving westward. The Emerald Ash Borer beetle only attacks ash trees, but all varieties of ash are susceptible and the infested trees usually die.

Although the borer is not in Minnesota yet, Public Works and agencies throughout the state are working with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) on a detection program. The City has provided five, four- to six-inch diameter ash trees throughout Bloomington for monitoring by the MDA. The City's seven State-certified, diseased tree inspectors are also watching for Emerald Ash Borer disease.

For more information, call Paul Edwardson at 952-563-8762.

*Earth Action Heroes protect the earth. Whether it's saving energy or guarding Bloomington's precious natural resources, these individuals and businesses are making a difference.*

## EARTH ACTION HEROES THE GREEN BUILDERS

THE FLOOR-TO-CEILING GLASS EXTERIORS on the two, 17-story residential towers at Bloomington Central Station reveal the area's surrounding beauty. But the high-performance, well-sealed and insulated glass serves other purposes: it mitigates noise from the nearby airport, provides natural daylight and reduces energy costs for residents.

For this and other construction features, Reflections was recently awarded Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Certification for New Construction (LEED-NC) by the U.S. Green Building Council. LEED is the internationally recognized green building rating system that provides a framework for designing and constructing sustainable, energy-efficient, high-performance buildings.

Developed and constructed by McGough Companies, Reflections is the

first LEED-NC certified housing complex in Minnesota and among the first LEED-certified, multi-unit residential projects in the United States. Tom McGough, Jr., President, McGough Companies, said his company was thrilled to receive the recognition.

"LEED Certification proves our belief that high-quality design, sustainability and development goals can be compatible," McGough said.

Reflections is the first phase of the 43-acre transit-oriented development aimed at reducing reliance on automobiles. The project is the first suburban development linked to the light rail transit system. According to McGough, Bloomington Central Station's location between an international airport and a national wildlife refuge presented significant challenges for the design and construction.

"We wanted to realize a very cool, contemporary design while making environmentally responsible improvements," McGough said. "The transit-oriented solution became the obvious choice to achieve the highest and best use of the property."

LEED Certification of Reflections was based on green design and construction, including a sophisticated heating, ventilation and air conditioning system that constantly circulates and filters air; a stormwater management system that filters rainwater before it flows into the Minnesota River Valley and landscaping that requires minimal irrigation.

"McGough, the City of Bloomington and the Reflections Project Team should be congratulated for achieving LEED Certification," said USGBC President and CEO Rick Fedrizzi. "This sends a message that they care about the impact this development has on the surrounding environment and its community. Reflections will be a showcase for high-performance, energy-efficient, healthy buildings and an inspiration for others."

Other Bloomington construction projects seeking LEED Certification include Ryan Companies' Marketpointe II and United Properties' 8200 Norman Center Drive Tower.

Mayor Gene Winstead presented the LEED Certification to Executive Vice President Tim McGough, McGough Companies, at the Bloomington Central Station Park grand opening in June. *See below.*

## BLOOMINGTON CENTRAL STATION PARK OPENS A "SENSE OF PLACE" CREATED FOR DYNAMIC AIRPORT SOUTH DISTRICT

BLOOMINGTON RESIDENTS RECENTLY became the beneficiaries of a new park maintained and operated by its private owner, Bloomington Central Station, LLC. Because of an agreement with the developer, the public enjoys a limited right of access to the 1.9-acre public park, located at the hub of the Bloomington Central Station development. The park features seating areas, garden rooms, water walls and fountains, paved and lighted walkways and public art.

Construction of the \$4 million park was funded with \$800,000 in transit-oriented development grants from Hennepin County, \$2.7 million in grants from the Metropolitan Council and \$500,000 from the developer McGough.

"This has all come together through

collaborative efforts and partnerships," Mayor Gene Winstead said. "The park will give a sense of place to the 43-acre Bloomington Central Station development, the largest transit-oriented development in the region and in the country."

HealthPartners' Executive Vice President Kathy Cooney said the park is beneficial to employees and residents.

"This park builds on what's really important in our community, which is how we make sure we're all healthy and active," Cooney said.

For more information, call Jill Hutmacher at 952-563-8541.

